

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) An active part for a surge arrester having two connecting fittings (10, 20) which are arranged along an axis (z) at a distance from one another, having at least one cylindrical varistor column (30), which is provided between the two connecting fittings (10, 20), and having at least one dielectric loop (40, 41, 42, 43, 411, 412), which is supported on the two connecting fittings (10, 20) or on one of the two connecting fittings (10, 20) and a connection piece (31), which is arranged between the two connecting fittings (10, 20) in the varistor column (30), and holds together the varistor column (30) or a section of the varistor column (30), which is bounded by the supporting connecting fitting (10, 20) and the connection piece (31), thus forming a contact force, characterized in that wherein at least one of the two connecting fittings (10, 20) has an electrode, which is arranged at right angles to the axis (z) and is in the form of a plate (11, 12), as well as an electrical connection (12, 22), which is integrally formed on the plate (11, 12), and means for supporting one end of the dielectric loop (40, 41, 42, 43, 411, 412), which means are formed in the plate (11, 12) and/or are integrally formed at the edge of the plate (11, 12).

2. (Currently Amended) The active part as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the electrical connection (12, 22) is flat.

3. (Currently Amended) The active part as claimed in claim 2, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the electrical connection (12, 22) is in the form of a perforated plate or a plug-in contact.

4. (Currently Amended) The active part as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that claim 1, wherein~~ an axially symmetrical centering tab (15, 25) projects from a surface of the plate (11, 21) facing the varistor column (30) and is used to guide at least one cup spring (16, 26) which is in the form of a conical annular disk.

5. (Currently Amended) The active part as claimed in claim 4, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the diameter of the centering tab (15, 25) and the internal diameter of the annular disk are matched to one another so as to prevent the cup spring (16, 26) from being pressed flat.

6. (Currently Amended) The active part as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that claim 1, wherein~~ the supporting means have at least one shoulder (131, 132, 231, 232) which is integrally formed at the edge of the plate (11, 21) and is narrower than the diameter of the varistor column (30).

7. (Currently Amended) The active part as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 5~~,  
~~characterized in that claim 1, wherein~~ the supporting means have a shoulder ~~(200, 201)~~  
which is formed in the plate ~~(11, 21)~~ and passes through the axis ~~(z)~~ of the varistor column  
~~(30)~~.

8. (Currently Amended) The active part as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 5~~,  
~~characterized in that claim 1, wherein~~ the supporting means have two shoulders ~~(13, 14,~~  
~~23, 24)~~ which are formed in the plate ~~(11, 21)~~ and are each arranged in one of two sections  
of the plate ~~(11, 21)~~ edge which run in a straight line.

9. (Currently Amended) The active part as claimed in ~~one of claims 7 or 8~~,  
~~characterized in that claim 7, wherein~~ the shoulder has a surface which is largely parallel to  
the plate surface over the majority of the plate extent, and ~~in that wherein~~ the loop ~~(40, 41,~~  
~~42, 43)~~ is in the form of a rectangle and is supported on the inside by means of one of the  
rectangular faces on the surface.

10. (Currently Amended) A surge arrester as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 9~~  
claim 1 having a housing ~~(50)~~ which is composed of insulating material and surrounds the  
varistor column ~~(30)~~, parts of the connecting fittings ~~(10, 20)~~ and the dielectric loop ~~(40,~~  
~~41, 42, 43)~~.

11. (Currently Amended) The surge arrester as claimed in claim 10,  
~~characterized in that~~ wherein electrical connections ~~(12, 22)~~ of the fittings ~~(10, 20)~~ are  
passed out of the housing ~~(50)~~.